

Letter Reveals Dealer's View On Prices In 1862

St. Louis, Mo., numismatist Eric P. Newman, shares with Coin World readers a copy of a letter written by another numismatic luminary of a century ago, Joseph J. Mickley of Philadelphia, Pa. The Mickley collection enjoyed the undisputed reputation of being one of the finest of its day, including most of the classic U.S. rarities.

"Joseph J. Mickley was such an important collector, I thought you might be interested . . . particularly in the comment

about the price of American coins going up, due to so many collectors and to the replacement of old coinage by new coinage," Newman said.

Mickley's letter, dated March 19, 1862, was addressed to Mr. Francis Lepire.

"Your letter of the 13th was received and contents noted," it begins: "I have made inquiry of a Coin dealer, what he would sell the coins you inquire about, at. He gave me the following. 1793 Cent 75 Cts to \$2 and as high as \$10 if in fine preservation, 1795 1/2 Cent, 50 Ct, \$1 upwards, 1797 do. 25 cts, — 1831, \$6 to \$8 — 1836 \$4 to \$6, — 1852 \$4.50 to \$6. — Dollars 1796, \$2 — 1797 \$1.25 — 1801 & 1802 1.50 each.

"A young man left the Cents of 1793 & 1794 with me to sell for him for which he wants \$2. — The 1793 has the 13 links on the Reverse, which is a rare Type, it is in a fair condition, all legible, I think you would do well to procure these.

"I don't deal in coins any further than that frequently some are left with me by persons, for sale. I have a lot now, sent to me from England, to be disposed of, they consist of Coins and Medals relating to this Country, among which are Massachusetts Silver Shillings, from \$1.50 to \$10 each, — Sixpences — Threepences & twopences. — The Chalmers Annapolis Silver Shilling, Sixpence & Threepence, the price of this is 17 pounds 17 shillings, this is rather high, though the two last pieces are extremely rare, a number of Copper pieces: Washington, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, several Cents & Halves of the U.S. Mint, etc., etc. — The rare U.S.A. Bar Cent,

Reverse 13 bars. The price of this is five pounds.

"There are also some Silver & Bronze Medals in the lot, viz: Lafayette 5th — Louisburg taken, 2 varieties, — Quebec taken, 8/6 each (copper,) Two in Silver, 2 pounds 2 shillings each, these medals are in remarkable fine condition. These, as well as the coins, are very desirable to one who collects pieces relating to this country. I have them all in my cabinet.

"The price of American coins has gone up very high within several years past, owing to there being a great many Collectors and to our old coins being recoinced, the old Copper Cents and Halves disappearing from circulation rapidly. —

"If you collect foreign Coins, I could assist you a good deal, for they are more frequently offered to me than American, they are also cheaper in proportion, it will give me pleasure to assist you in anything in my power, if you would inform me more particularly of what you wish to collect.

"In hopes of hearing from you at your leisure, I remain

"Yours Resply.

"Jos. J. Mickley."

Elgin Schedules Show In November

The seventh annual Coin Show of the Elgin, Ill., Coin Club is set for November 30, 1969 in the Blue Moon Ball Room, 1500 Larkin avenue, Elgin. The public is invited to attend at no charge for admission, with doors open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available.

There will be exhibits, bourse tables and an auction. Further details are available from John Falloon, 98 South Grove avenue, or Gerry Hickey, 27 North Grove avenue, both of Elgin, Ill. 60120.

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